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68057

R-33-8-6-9

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

SCP-CARLSTADT SITE
CARLSTADT TOWNSHIP
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

EPA WORK ASSIGNMENT
NUMBER 106-2LE4
CONTRACT NUMBER 68-01-6699

NUS PROJECT NUMBER S142

SEPTEMBER 1986

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1.0 OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

This Community Relations Plan (CRP) has been developed for use with remedial activities now being planned for the SCP-Carlstadt site in Carlstadt Township, Bergen County, New Jersey. At this time, community concern regarding the site can be classified as low. When remedial activity begins at the site, however, community interest and concern may increase. The purpose of this CRP is to encourage constructive interaction and meaningful two-way communication between the agencies conducting remedial actions and the community affected by the site. Because community relations is a dynamic process, this plan should be updated as the project develops and as the community's concerns evolve.

Information for this document was obtained from files maintained by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region II, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). In addition, telephone interviews were conducted with local officials and citizens and with EPA personnel.

This CRP first outlines the site history and community profile. Issues and concerns of the community are identified, followed by recommended techniques to respond to these concerns. Also included is a proposed schedule of activities. A list of interested parties concerned with the site is included as Appendix A to this CRP. This site is an enforcement case; the EPA, acting as the lead agency, is coordinating community relations activities.

2.0 SITE BACKGROUND

The SCP-Carlstadt site is located at 216 Paterson Plank Road in Carlstadt Township, Bergen County, New Jersey. The site is a corner property, bounded by Paterson Plank Road to the south, Gotham Parkway to the west, Peach Island Creek to the north, and an industrial facility to the east (see Figure 2-1, Site Location Map). The main entrance gate to the site is located on Paterson Plank Road near the southeast corner of the site. The site—fenced on the east, west, and south sides—occupies a relatively flat, sparsely-vegetated area of approximately 5.9 acres in the Hackensack Meadowlands. Peach Island Creek, north of the site, flows into Berry's Creek Canal, a tributary of the Hackensack River, which eventually flows, into the Atlantic Ocean at New Jersey Bay.

Structures on site at one time included a tank farm, a still and boilerhouse, a staging platform, and a thin-film evaporator. The tank farm contained 18 tanks, but currently, only 4 tanks and 1 trailer remain on site. The tanks are marked as containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The property owner is in the process of conducting a removal action for the tanks and the trailer, which includes proper disposal of the contents of these vessels and decontamination and disposal of the tanks and trailer. The still and boilerhouse area and the staging platform area both contained tanks at one time, which have since been removed.

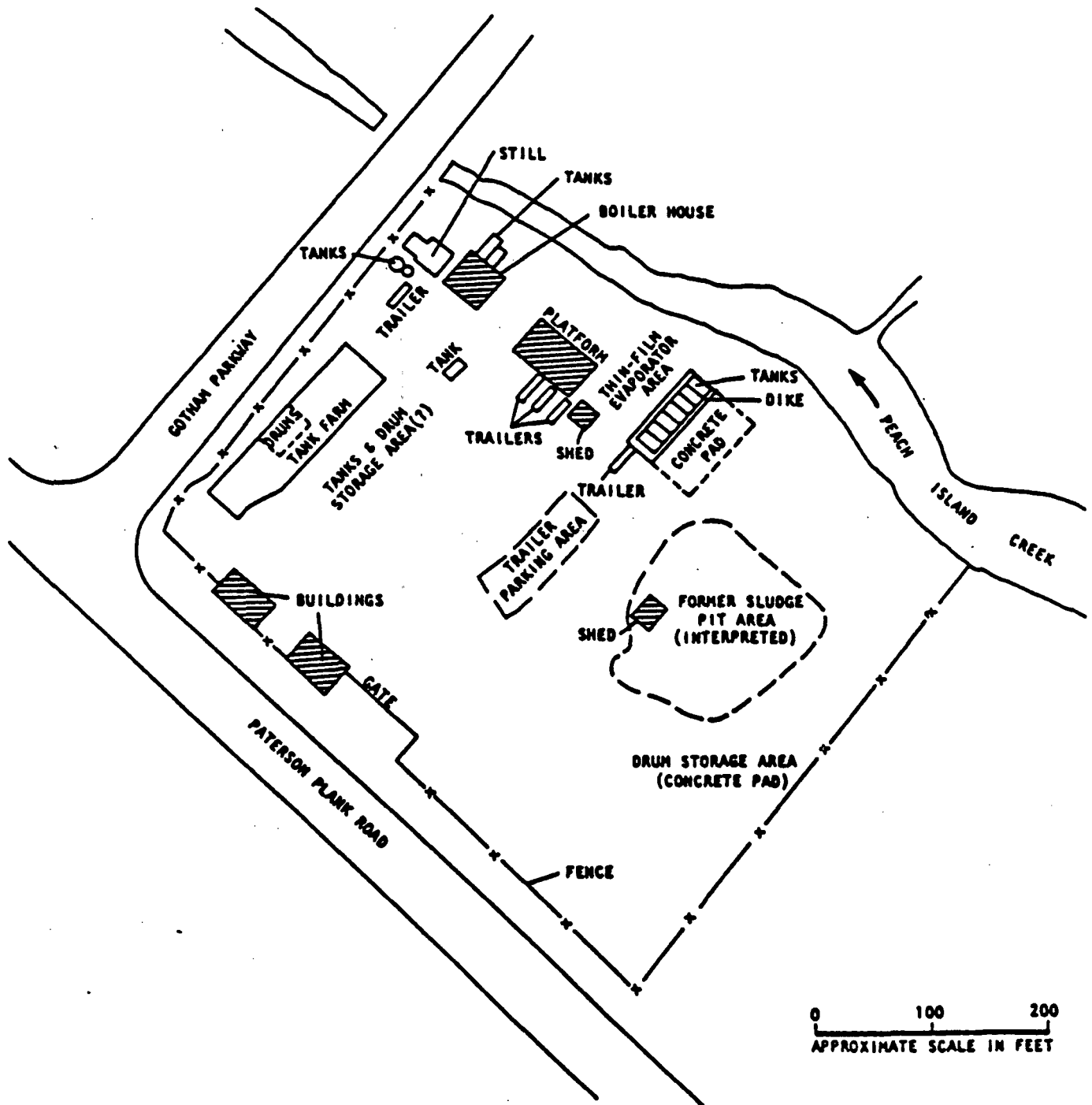
Other site features include two small abandoned buildings near the site entrance and two apparent sludge disposal areas near the northeastern corner of the site. Miscellaneous debris, including crushed drums, is strewn throughout the site.

2.1 Site History

Scientific Chemical Processing, Inc. (SCP) used the site for its industrial waste recycling operations from 1971 until October 1980, when it was closed by court order. Prior to 1971, the site was reportedly operated by others for solvent refining and recovery since the 1950's.

While in operation, the facility processed liquid wastes from chemical and other industrial manufacturing firms to reclaim marketable products, such as methanol, which were sold to the originating companies. In addition, other liquid wastes were processed to some extent and then blended with fuel oil; the mixtures were typically re-sold to the originating companies or to cement and aggregate kilns as boiler fuel. In addition to the liquid wastes, the site also processed paint sludges and acids.

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SOURCE: RI/FS WORK PLAN BY DAMES & MOORE, OCTOBER 1, 1985

**GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
SCP SITE, CARLSTADT, NJ**

SCALE AS SHOWN

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FIGURE 2-1



Operations ceased at the site in 1980 by order of the New Jersey Superior Court. At the time of the court-ordered closing, over 300,000 gallons of hazardous materials were stored on site. During 1984, many of the tanks, tank trailers, and drums were removed from the site by the property owner, under NJDEP supervision. The remaining tanks and trailer are being dismantled by the property owner and will be removed from the site.

An Administrative Order on Consent was signed by the EPA and the potentially responsible parties in September 1985 for the initiation and completion of a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) for the SCP-Carlstadt site. In addition, the EPA issued a Unilateral Order to those potentially responsible parties who refused to sign the consent order. This Unilateral Order requires these parties to participate in the RI/FS with the consenting parties.

3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

3.1 Community Profile

Approximately 21,000 people live within a 3-mile radius of the SCP-Carlstadt site. However, because the site and its facilities are located within a heavily industrialized area of the township, there are no nearby residential neighborhoods. A race track and a stable are located to the south, across Paterson Plank Road, and a bank is located to the west, across Gotham Parkway. Other nearby land uses are predominantly industrial. Route 17 is the boundary between the residential and industrial areas. Citizens receive water from the city water supply; groundwater in the immediate vicinity is not used as a source of potable water.

3.2 Community Relations History

There has been very little community involvement or citizen action regarding the SCP-Carlstadt site. Media coverage has been minimal. The Meadowlands area has historically been known for the refuse and waste disposal sites located there. More than 150 New Jersey municipalities use the Meadowlands for solid waste disposal.

The NJDEP investigation process, which began in 1979 and culminated with the court-ordered closing in 1980, heightened community awareness. Various legal actions that have occurred since 1980, including indictments of several company executives for environmental law violations, have maintained the awareness level established earlier during the NJDEP investigations. According to file information, the site became a campaign issue during the 1983 mayoral election since candidate Dominic Presto was an officer in the Scientific Chemical Processing Company.

A fire at the site in 1985 forced the evacuation of people working in the area. According to one individual interviewed for this CRP, the fumes from the fire entered the local bank, and several people were taken to the hospital. The bank was used as an emergency control center during the incident.

There are no organized citizen groups associated with the site. One organization, known as the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Corporation, has been involved since 1968 in environmental reclamation efforts to improve the economy. The objectives and interests of this organization involve the entire Meadowlands area; it was not established specifically to address the

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SCP-Carlstadt site. The Meadowlands Chamber of Commerce has also been involved in efforts to improve environmental conditions.

3.3 Key Community Concerns

Overall, there is a minimal level of concern among community members regarding the SCP-Carlstadt site. Efforts to identify involved or interested citizens for the development of this CRP were largely unsuccessful. According to local officials interviewed for this CRP, the lack of citizen concern can be attributed to three factors: (1) the SCP facility is situated in an industrial and commercial area; (2) citizens do not live near the site; and (3) citizens are unaware of and unfamiliar with the site. Also, SCP had previously transferred a vast portion of chemicals from the Carlstadt site to its other facility, located in Newark. The concerns that were identified through onsite discussions with local officials and business community representatives are summarized below.

As the RI/FS proceeds, it is possible that the public may become more aware of or more concerned about the SCP-Carlstadt site. At that time, community concerns may need to be reevaluated so that any additional issues can be identified and addressed during the RI/FS.

Onsite Storage Tanks: The presence of waste storage tanks at the site and the resultant potential for fire or explosion was identified as an early concern of the community. However, the emergency removal action conducted by the property owner greatly alleviated this concern.

Site Security: Although the site is fenced on three sides, security at the site is perceived as inadequate. The site is accessible to vagrants who frequent the area. In the past, visitors were attracted to the site by workers wearing full-body protective clothing during the emergency removal action. Local officials have expressed concern that future remedial actions will attract more people to the site area.

The concern regarding site security is of particular importance to local officials because the Carlstadt Ambulance Corps does not respond to site-related calls because of the lack of protection from possible site hazards. The fire department responds to site-related requests for assistance.

Potential Health Effects: The primary health concern expressed by those interviewed for this CRP was the potential adverse health effects caused by fumes or odors emanating from the site. The fire that occurred in 1985 has raised community concern regarding the potential for additional new incidents that may result from future remedial actions. In addition to human health effects, there is

a potential threat to animal health, specifically, to horses in nearby stables. Potential health hazards from PCB-contaminated soil and airborne dust were also expressed as a concern. Groundwater contamination was not identified as a health concern because the groundwater in the vicinity of the site is not used as a potable water supply. The Carlsdadt community receives its water from the Hackensack Water Company.

Future Business Development: One business representative expressed concern regarding the negative impact of the site on local business or industrial development. Not only is the site itself unusable, but it also inhibits certain types of development nearby. A member of the Carlstadt Chamber of Commerce stated that the chamber does not want to see the land lie unused. The chamber would like to enhance the orderly development of the Meadowlands.

Community Relations: Several people interviewed expressed a desire to receive more information about the nature of the site and any possible additional problems that could occur in the future. Also, members of the Carlstadt Board of Health and the ambulance corps indicated that they would like to be kept informed about site remedial plans and findings.

Most of the concerns identified in this plan were expressed by individuals who are aware of the site on the basis of their professional affiliations (e.g., with the board of health, the ambulance corps, and the chamber of commerce). Each of these individuals stated that the general public was unaware of the site or that the public was aware but unconcerned about the site.

As the RI/FS proceeds, it is possible that the public may become more aware of or more concerned about the SCP Carlstadt site. At such time, community concerns may need to be re-evaluated so that any additional issues can be identified and addressed during the RI/FS.

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4.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

The community relations program at the SCP-Carlstadt site is designed to provide an opportunity for the community to learn about and participate in the Superfund remedial process. To be effective, the community relations program should be gauged according to the community's need and desire for information and its interest and willingness to participate in the remedial process.

The objectives of the community relations program for the SCP-Carlstadt site are as follows:

1. Establish regular and predictable contact with interested local, county, and state elected officials; with interested citizens; and with media representatives. Local officials in Carlstadt Township are in touch with the community on a daily basis. They can be an important resource in the EPA'S effort to understand and monitor community concern. To gain the support of elected officials and media representatives, efforts should be made to keep them informed of site activities and the results of those activities.
2. Provide information and respond to questions about the procedures and requirements of the Superfund program. To dispel confusion that may arise about the EPA's purpose and responsibilities at the site, efforts should be made to circulate basic information to the community describing the Superfund program and the public participation process.
3. Provide information and receive public comments about the RI/FS. Citizens may be interested in receiving information regarding the schedule, purpose, and outcome of technical activities that will occur during the RI. If information cannot be released—either because of quality assurance requirements or the sensitivity of enforcement proceedings—an explanation as to why the information must be withheld may gain community support.
4. Assess the level of concern among elected officials and interested citizens. The community relations program for the SCP-Carlstadt site should provide accurate and timely information to the citizens living in the affected community. As RI/FS activities begin, the EPA should regularly assess the level of concern in the community and change the community relations program as needed to meet evolving concerns.

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5.0 SUGGESTED COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

The following activities are recommended to meet the stated objectives of the SCP-Carlstadt site.

Regular Contact with Carlstadt Township officials, county and state officials, concerned citizens, and media representatives.

Purpose: To establish two-way communication between the EPA and key local officials, interested citizens, and representatives of the media about the RI/FS project and the Superfund program, and to assess the level of interest among local officials and citizens.

Technique: The EPA should provide information on technical activities at the site and assess citizen concern by receiving telephone calls and initiating regular contact with key local officials and interested residents.

Public Information Meeting After Completion of the RI.

Purpose: To ensure that the general public, local elected officials, and media representatives are informed of the results of the RI.

Technique: The EPA should hold a public informational meeting after the completion of the RI. This meeting should be coordinated with local officials of Carlstadt Township. Also, publicity efforts should be directed to local newspapers announcing the meetings. A meeting summary should be prepared for each meeting. Appendix B contains the suggested meeting location for this site.

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Public Availability Session

Purpose: To allow community members and other interested parties an opportunity to meet informally with EPA officials and to discuss remedial activities at the SCP-Carlstadt site.

Technique: The EPA should consider holding public availability sessions, on an "as-needed" basis, in Carlstadt Township to communicate information about the site to interested residents. The EPA should provide both technical and community relations staff to respond to questions at these sessions. The EPA should publicize these sessions so that all interested parties are aware of the date, time, and location of such events.

Fact Sheets/Updates

Purpose: To provide interested parties with background information and descriptions of current and future remedial activities at the SCP-Carlstadt site.

Technique: A project fact sheet/update should provide basic information explaining the EPA Superfund Program, its objectives, and its funding procedures. The fact sheet/update should provide a brief history of the site and site-specific information on the status of the project. These fact sheets should be produced to correspond to project milestones, such as the implementation of the RI, the completion of the FS, and the signing of the Record of Decision.

Press Releases to Local Newspapers and Radio and Television Stations

Purpose: To ensure that the general public receives accurate information through the media about the activities performed during the RI/FS and the results of those activities.

Technique: The EPA should prepare and send a news release to selected media to announce any significant project developments. In addition, the EPA should issue news releases at the completion of the following technical milestones:

- Release of the RI report.
- Release of the draft FS report.
- Selection of a remedial alternative and approval of the Record of Decision document.
- Initiation of construction activities at the site.

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A list of media contacts who should receive news releases is included in Appendix A of this community relations plan.

Mailing List of Key Contacts

Purpose: To ensure that individuals and organizations who have expressed interest in the SCP-Carlstadt site receive timely information about site-related activities.

Technique: The EPA should periodically expand and revise the key contacts list attached to this plan.

Information Repositories

Purpose: To ensure that technical documents and fact sheets are available to interested citizens and local officials.

Technique: An information repository should be established and maintained at the William E. Dermody Free Public Library (address found in Appendix B).

Public Comment Period and Public Meeting on draft FS Report

Purpose: To allow the general public the opportunity to meet and discuss with EPA officials their concerns about the draft FS report on the SCP-Carlstadt site.

Technique: The EPA should hold a minimum 3-week public comment period following the release of the draft FS report. Appendix B lists the suggested meeting location for a public meeting for the SCP-Carlstadt site.

Responsiveness Summary

Purpose: To summarize key community concerns during the public comment period and EPA response to community comments and concerns about the RI/FS.

Technique: The responsiveness summary should describe major comments raised by the public-- particularly those that relate to the selected remedial alternative. In addition, the responsiveness summary should describe how the EPA responded to these comments. The responsiveness summary should be included as part of the Record of Decision document.

Revised Community Relations Plan

Purpose: To help the EPA remain responsive to current community concerns during remedial action at the site.

Technique: Telephone interviews and/or community interviews should be conducted with key contact persons in the community to assess changes in concern as a result of any remedial actions taken at the site. These contacts should include nearby residents, local officials, and business representatives. On the basis of these interviews, a second, revised community relations plan should be prepared if community concern changes or increases significantly.

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6.0 STAFFING PLAN AND SCHEDULE

EPA Region II has the responsibility for planning and implementing the community relations program at the SCP-Carlstadt site. Lillian Johnson, EPA Superfund Community Relations Coordinator, will conduct community relations activities at the site. Janet Feldstein, EPA Enforcement Project Manager, will assist with community relations activities.

An approximate schedule for community relations activities at the SCP-Carlstadt site is shown in Table 6-1.

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TABLE 6-1

APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES FOR THE SCP-CARLSADT SITE

Community Relations Activity	Completion of the Work Plan	Completion of the Remedial Investigation (RI) and RI Report	Completion of the Feasibility Study (FS) and FS Report	Record of Decision	Initiation of Onsite Construction Activity	Completion of all Construction Activities
Information Repository	X	-----	updated as needed	-----	-----	X
EPA Information Contact	X	-----	-----	-----	-----	X
Meeting w/Local Officials	X	X	X	X	X	
Telephone Contact with Local Officials	X	-----	provide as needed	-----	-----	X
Informal Discussion w/Residents		X			X	
Fact Sheets/Technical Summaries		X	X	X	X	X
News Release	X	provide as needed	X	X	X	
3-Week Public Comment Period			X			
Public Meeting		X	X			
Responsiveness Summary			X			
CRP Revision				X		

Note: Dotted lines represent ongoing activity.

APPENDIX A

MAILING LIST OF INTERESTED PARTIES AND KEY CONTACTS

Federal Elected Officials

Senator Bill Bradley
7321 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 224-3224

Home Office:
One Greentree Center
Suite 303
Route 73
Marlton, New Jersey 08053
(609) 983-4143

Senator Frank Lautenberg
717 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4744

Home Office:
970 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(201) 645-3030

Representative Robert C. Torricelli
317 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5061

Home Office:
27 Warren Street
Suite 201
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
(201) 646-1111

U.S. EPA Region II Officials

Lillian Johnson
Community Relations Coordinator
Office of External Programs
U.S. Environmental Agency, Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278
(212) 264-2515

Janet Feldstein
Remedial Project Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278
(212) 264-0613

State Elected Officials

Senator Joseph Hirkala
663 Main Avenue
Room 1004
Passaic, New Jersey 07055
(201) 473-2210

Assemblywoman Kathleen A. Donovan
6 Station Square
Rutherford, New Jersey 07070
(201) 933-1404

Assemblyman Dave DiGaetano
21 Henderson Street
Passaic, New Jersey 07055
(201) 791-1771

Local Officials

Mayor Dominic Presto
Carlstadt Borough Hall
500 Madison Street
Carlstadt, New Jersey 07072
(201) 939-2850

Paul Occhiuzzo, Councilman
John Myers, Councilman
William Roseman, Councilman
Robert Deleasa, Councilman
Thomas McCoy, Councilman
Philip Jones, Councilman
Carlstadt Borough Hall
500 Madison Street
Carlstadt, New Jersey 07072
(201) 939-2850

Harry Baker, Sr.
District 1 Emergency Management Coordinator
251 Innes Road
Wood-Ridge, New Jersey 07075
(201) 935-2268

Richard Fritzky, Executive Director
Meadowlands Chamber of Commerce
600 Washington Avenue
Carlstadt, New Jersey 07072
(201) 939-0707

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Donald J. Smith
Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission
2 DeKort Park Plaza
Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07011
(201) 460-1700

Carol Wagner
Carlstadt Board of Health
500 Madison Street
Carlstadt, New Jersey 07072
(201) 939-2856

Media

Newspapers

The Herald News
988 Main Avenue
Passaic, New Jersey 07055
(201) 365-3000

The East Rutherford - Carlstadt Free Press
251 Ridge Road
Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071
(201) 438-8700

The Hackensack Record
150 River Street
Hackensack, New Jersey 07602
(201) 646-4000

The South Bergenite
39 Meadow Road
Rutherford, New Jersey 07070
(201) 933-2700

Television

WOR-TV Channel 9

9 Broadcast Plaza

Secaucus, New Jersey 07094

(201) 348-0009

WNET - Channel 13

1 Gateway Center, Suite 150

Newark, New Jersey 07102

(201) 643-3315

WABC - Channel 7

433 Hackensack Avenue

Hackensack, New Jersey 07601

(201) 488-4120

Cablevision of New Jersey, Inc.

451 Ridge Road

Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071

(201) 460-1000

Radio

WABC

433 Hackensack Avenue

Hackensack, New Jersey 07601

(201) 488-4120

WKER

1976 Lincoln Avenue

Pompton Lakes, New Jersey 07442

(201) 839-1500

WNJR

1700 Union Avenue
Union, New Jersey 07083
(201) 688-5000

WWDJ
167 Main Street
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
(201) 343-5097